

Downham Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1915.

GEO. FREDK. CROSS, M.B., B.S.

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DOWNHAM MARKET:

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DOWNHAM MARKET,

March 7th, 1916.

*The Chairman and Members of the
Downham Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in again presenting you with my report of the sanitary conditions and work done in the District throughout the year.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Local Government Board the report is condensed as much as possible and confined to a record of what has taken place during the year.

Although the report is printed the cost has been reduced to a minimum.

Military.

In June it was proposed to billet troops in the town. Arrangements were well in hand, but owing to a sudden outbreak of Measles the Military Authorities decided to postpone sending them.

Late in November a Battery of Notts. Royal Horse Artillery were sent, and are still here. No private billets were used, the men being billeted in large rooms and public houses. Your Sanitary Officials gave the Military every assistance, and arrangements were made for scavenging and removal of horse manure.

The County Medical Officer of Health made an inspection and has expressed his satisfaction. He called attention to a few necessary improvements

and they have been carried out. The Water Supply of two wells he regarded as suspicious. These have been analysed by the County Analyst, and one which was found polluted has been ordered to be closed. Baths have been provided for the men, and the scavenging is being satisfactorily carried out.

Red Cross Work.

Since February two large buildings have been utilized for the treatment of wounded soldiers. 32 beds are available with a staff of 4 trained nurses together with a willing staff of V. A. D. nurses.

At the end of the year 110 patients had already been treated.

In addition an isolated cottage has been secured and fitted up for the reception of infectious cases.

There have been no deaths.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

The Sanitary work of the town is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who is a part time official. He reports that—

- 31 Stable bins have been cleaned out
- 8 Ash bins cleaned out
- 21 Defective drains remedied
- 13 Closet vaults emptied
- 2 dirty yards cleaned
- 1 slaughter house offal removed
- 2 defective slaughter houses
- 2 slaughter houses refuse dealt with
- 5 cases of dirty pig styes dealt with
- 5 pigs kept within distance

Closet Accommodation

There are 635 w.c's connected with the sewers

„	14 w.c's not	„	„	„
„	14 earth closets			
„	47 vaults			

During the year 17 of these vaults have been done away. Where it is possible to connect up with the sewers it is to be hoped that more of these vaults will be so treated.

During the year 11 additional houses have had the Marham water laid on, making a total of 212 houses now so supplied.

There are five registered Dairies and Cowsheds with an approximate number of 60 cows. In addition one Dairy outside the District purveys milk in the town. There have been no complaints.

The condition of the 10 Bakehouses and 10 Slaughter Houses are satisfactory.

There are 40 Factories and Workshops in the District which have been inspected and found satisfactory.

Sewerage

The sewerage scheme referred to in my last report have been completed. The sewerage which has been diverted from the open ditches is collected at the Storage Tank at the Pumping Station—well away from the town—at which station two Ram Pumps, each throwing 3000 gallons per hour—are at work pumping the sewerage to Dortmund and Septic Tanks about half a mile further away from the town, from whence it is treated in Beds and Humus Tanks, after which treatment a good effluent is obtained.

The storm water is dealt with by Storage Tanks of 7500 gallons capacity and Centrifugal Pumps, throwing respectively 25,000 and 15,000 gallons per hour.

The Sewerage Works are under the supervision of the Surveyor, as is also the Scavenging. Although the latter has been considerably increased the work is carried out satisfactorily.

Housing

The systematic inspection of Houses has been in obedience. Extra vigilance in Sanitary matters has been exercised. It has been found difficult to get work done, partly in consequence of the shortage of labour. All the worst houses, where defects were likely to be found, have been previously inspected. Sixteen houses have been provided with completely new drains and in place of old vaults hand-flushed closets have been substituted. The owner of six of these closets is under a Statutory order to supply flush tanks in accordance with resolution of your Council, that flush tanks should be put in where new closets were built and Marham water available.

TABLE A.

Number of dwelling houses inspected	....	....	Nil
Number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
Number of representations to Local Authority with a view to making a closing order	....	Nil	
Number of closing orders made	....	....	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied without making closing orders		21		

Two cases of Overcrowding were dealt with. One family removed into the adjoining district.

Infectious Diseases

With the exception of the outbreak of Measles the town has been remarkably free from Epidemic disease.

A slight outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred early in the year. In all eight cases were notified, one being fatal.

Two cases of Enteric Fever occurred in the Union Workhouse, but both were contracted outside the District and were brought into the House for better care.

In June an epidemic of Measles broke out and spread rapidly. Acting under the advice of Dr. Farrar, the Inspector of the Local Government Board, who visited the town for the purpose of inspecting the Billetting arrangements, your Council decided to make this disease, together with German Measles and Whooping Cough, notifiable for the duration of the War.

As only the first case in each house was required to be notified the 38 cases in Table II do not represent the number of cases during the outbreak. Only one death occurred.

Tuberculosis Regulations, 1912

Three cases were notified under the above Regulations. All were cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs. Two died, and the other was discharged from the Union Workhouse. Another case of Tuberculosis died in the Union Workhouse.

Vital Statistics

The total Deaths registered in the District was 59, of which number 31 were males and 28 females. 17 were over 80 years of age, and three over 90

Twenty-three persons died in the Union Workhouse, of which 18 belonged outside the District, giving a nett total of 41 deaths, a death rate of 13·6.

The causes of deaths call for no special comment.

The total number of Births registered was 54, males 31, females 23. Of the 13 illegitimate children six were born in the Union Workhouse and five of these belonged outside the District. The nett total of births was therefore 48, giving a birth rate of 21·1.

Infantile Mortality

There were 12 deaths of children under 1 year of age, 8 males, 4 females. This number gives the high death rate of 250 per 1000 births. But half the deaths were due to respiratory diseases and none of the others could be attributed to causes which so often lead up to a heavy incidence of infantile mortality.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. FREDK. CROSS,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915
and previous years.

Year	Population estimated to the middle of each year.			Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
	2	3	Uncorrected number	Number.	Rate.	Number	Rate	of non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	under 1 year.		At all ages.	
										10	Rate per 1000 nett Births	12	Rate
1					5	6	7	8	9				
1910	2500	53	...	21.2	29	11.6	4	...	1	18.8	25	10	
1911	2500	48	...	19.6	53	21.2	17	2	7	14.6	38	15.2	
1912	2500	54	...	20.4	58	23.2	14	6	10	20.0	50	20.0	
1913	2500	43	...	15.2	41	16.4	16	7	2	52.6	32	12.8	
1914	2500	57	57	22.4	37	14.8	13	1	3	63.82	25	10.0	
1915	2260	54	48	21.1	59	26.03	18	...	12	250	41	13.6	

Area of District in acres land and inland water—1002.

Total Population at all ages—2497

Total families or separate occupiers—650

} At
Census
1911

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during
the year 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Small pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	8	...	2	4	1	1	...	...
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (first case in home notifiable from July 1st)	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	51	...	2	4	3	2	2	...

*Isolation Hospital or
Hospitals, or Sanatoria, &c.* } None

TABLE III.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District								Total Deaths whether of residents or nonresidents in institutions in the District
	All Ages	under 1 year	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
All causes certified ...	59	...							
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis, Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis ...	3	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	2
Other Tuberculous disease	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
Organic Heart Disease ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	5
Bronchitis ...	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Pneumonia, all forms ...	5	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined Diseases ...	22	1	...	...	...	1	...	20	10
Totals ...	59	12	2	1	2	1	7	33	23

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All causes, certified...	2	...	...	...	2	2	3	5	...	12
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Other Tuberculous Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Other Causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals ...	2	...	...	...	2	2	3	5	...	12

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate—41
Illegitimate—7

Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants—12
Illegitimate Infants—0